Legal assistance to Harijans.

* 1918 *Q.*—SRI M. DHARMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have made any provision in the Budget for 1953–54 to give financial assistance to the Harijans to defend themeslves in a Court of Law, if any prosecution is launched against them;

(*b*) if so, the number of persons to whom such assistance was given by the Government in 1953–54; and

(*c*) the total amount spent during the year 1953–54 under this provision?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) Legal aid is given to Harijans in *criminal cases* launched against them by Caste Hindus or *vice versa* if it is considered that they are deserving of such aid in the interests of justice. No separate provision was made in the budget for 1953–54.

" (*b*) Nil.

" (*c*) Does not arise."

SRI M DHARMALINGAM :—" I appreciate much the pains and special interest the present Government are taking for the welfare of Harijans but that causes prejudice and jealousy in the minds of certain sections of people and officers and they come forward to foist false cases against Harijans. Will the Government be sympathetic enough to consider that and provide the amount in the budget and see that Harijans are given financial assistance direct through the Prosecutors who will appear on behalf of the Harijans to defend them? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, whenever such cases are brought to the notice of the Collector, the Collector goes into the matter and then after deciding the cases, he grants the necessary aid. If such cases are brought to the notice of the Collector, he will certainly do so."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவில் ஒரு ஹரிஜன் அடிபட்ட பிறகு கோர்ட்டிலே கேஸ் போடுவதற்கு தனக்கு நிதி சகாயம் வேண்டுமென்று ஜில்லா கலெக்டருக்கும் ஹரிஜன வெல்பேர் ஆபீசருக்கும் மனு போட்டதற்கு அந்த மாதிரி வழக்கம் சர்க்காரிலே கிடையாது என்று அவருக்கு பதில் அனுப்பப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஆகையால் சர்க்கார் வைத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கும் திட்டம் ஜில்லா அதிகாரிகளுக்குத் தெரியாது என்று நினைக்கிறேன். ஆதலால் ஜில்லா கலெக்டர்களுக்கும் இதர வெல்பேர் ஆபீசர்களுக்கும் இப்படி ஹரிஜனங்களிடமிருந்தும் லீகல் அஸிஸ்டென்ஸ் வேண்டுமென்று விண்ணப்பம் வந்தால், அதைக் கவனித்து நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க வேண்டுமென்று சர்க்கார் சுற்றறிக்கை விடுவார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" சுற்றறிக்கை இதற்கு முன்னாலேயே விடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இரண்டொரு எழை ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கும் உதவி செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவில் நடந்த கேசைப் பற்றி சொல்லும்போது அப்படிப்பட்ட பழக்கம் இல்லை என்று அதிகாரிகள் சொல்லியிருக்க முடியாது. அப்படி சொல்லப்பட்டிருந்து அதை எனக்குத் தெரியப்படுத்தினால் சரியான நடவடிக்கை எடுப்பேன்."

4th August 1955]

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" Sir, in cognizable cases, prosecutions are launched usually by the Police after investigation. I would like to know whether the Government in such cases would give legal assistance to the Harijans?"

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" If it is a case against a Harijan, certainly, if the case deserves to be helped, we will give assistance."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, the procedure prescribed for granting legal assistance is so circuitous and delaying that only in a very few cases assistance is granted at the proper time. Will the Government see to it that if at all they give assistance the assistance is given to the Harijans before the cases are disposed of?"

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Yes, Sir, the Government will consider that."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Since even non-Harijans are not familiar with the technicalities of the law and that free legal assistance is available, will the Government instruct the Collectors that wherever Harijans are involved assistance is volunteered to them?"

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" How can assistance be volunteered? If the Collectors are informed of the nature of the case, assistance will be given in deserving cases as I said."

Kudroli Bridge.

* 1919 *Q.*—SRI K. ISHWARA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the old Kudroli bridge was damaged last year within the Mangalore municipal area;

(*b*) if so, the action taken by the Government to repair the bridge;

(*c*) whether the Mangalore Municipality requested the Government to construct a new bridge in lieu of the above bridge;

(*d*) when the work will be completed; and

(*e*) whether the Mangalore Municipality submitted any estimate for the construction of a new bridge; and if so, what it is?

THE HON SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) As the bridge is on a municipal road, the municipal council has to repair or reconstruct the bridge;

" (*c*) *to* (*e*) The Municipal Council has resolved to construct a new bridge and to apply to Government for financial assistance. It has its own engineer who will prepare an estimate for the work, get it sanctioned by the competent authorities and execute the work."